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Governmental Affairs

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Weekly Legislative Report #6

Week Ending February 21, 2025

Tort Reform Passes Senate – Heads to the House

A divided Georgia Senate passed a comprehensive tort reform bill Friday that is Governor Kemp's top priority for the 2025 General Assembly session. Senate Bill 68, which the Senate passed 33-21 along party lines, is aimed at reining in huge jury awards in civil lawsuits.

The bill contains a number of provisions, including:

- Prohibiting plaintiff lawyers in a civil lawsuit from asking a jury for a specific amount of damages until closing arguments.
- Requiring judges to rule on motions to dismiss a case filed by defense lawyers before the start of what tends to be an expensive discovery process.
- Prohibiting plaintiff lawyers from filing motions to dismiss a case and refiling a lawsuit after the jury has been seated and opening statements have taken place. Refiling at such a late stage forces defendants to spend money unnecessarily.
- Prohibits lawyers for either side from seeking double recoveries of attorney fees from the other side.
- Allows defense lawyers to introduce into evidence whether a plaintiff injured in an auto accident was wearing a seat belt.
- Establishes "premises liability" guidelines for when plaintiffs can sue business owners for negligence due to injuries suffered from criminal acts committed by a third party outside of the defendant's control.
- Allows plaintiffs to seek economic damages based only on the actual costs of the medical care they receive.
- Requires liability in a civil suit to be determined before the jury considers damages if either the plaintiff or defendant requests such "bifurcation" of trials.

Senators unanimously passed an amendment submitted on the floor that would allow deliberating juries to ask the judge whether a plaintiff has health insurance, the amount of the injured party's medical bill, and how much of the claim the insurance company paid.

Hurricane Helene Relief

Tax relief bills targeting victims of Hurricane Helene cleared both chambers of the General Assembly this week. The House unanimously passed legislation exempting from taxation disaster relief payments, grant funds, or crop insurance proceeds provided to victims of the massive storm that struck south, middle, and eastern Georgia last September.

“This storm was bad. It looked like a tornado hit everywhere,” House Majority Whip James Burchett, R-Waycross, chief sponsor of [HB 223](#), said. “It’s going to take years to recover.” The bill, which passed 173-0, now pending in the Senate Finance Committee, includes \$200 million in income tax credits for timber producers who suffered losses from the hurricane and a sales tax exemption on purchases of building materials used to repair or replace greenhouses, poultry sheds, or livestock barns that lay in the storm’s path. Hatchett, who chairs the House Appropriations Committee, said Tuesday’s measure is one of a series of bills to be taken up during this legislative session that will offer state assistance to Georgians affected by Helene.

Along those lines, the Senate also unanimously passed legislation aimed specifically at timber producers. [SB 52](#), now pending in the House Ways & Means Committee, would temporarily exclude from taxation timber sold or harvested from timberland in Georgia counties declared federal disaster areas after the hurricane. Sen. Russ Goodman, R-Cogdell, the bill’s chief sponsor, said 37% of the state’s 22 million acres of timberland was damaged or destroyed during the storm. The tax exemption would cover the fourth quarter of last year and all of this year, Goodman said. “No one is ever going to be made whole from this,” he said. “It’s just our job to do what we can within the power we have to help our fellow Georgians.” SB 52 now moves to the House.

Next Week

The legislature will be in session Monday for day 22, in recess Tuesday for a committee work day and in session Wednesday through Friday, which will complete 25 days of the 40-day session.

The Senate Appropriations Committee is scheduled to meet Monday morning to vote out the Amended FY 2025 budget. The Senate is expected to adopt it midweek.

Tracking List

Here are the bills we are tracking. New activity is noted in **green**. Click on the [Bill Number](#) to access the current version of the bill.

The 2025 Legislative Session is the first session of the 2025-2026 Term of the Georgia General Assembly. Therefore, bills not passed or defeated during this session will be carried over to the 2026 session. Bills pending in the House or Senate Rules Committees at adjournment sine die of the 2025 session will be recommitted to the committee from whence they came.

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Aging

[HB 11](#), Health (Rep. Kim Schofield – D)

So as to provide for sufficient staff for carrying out food and nutrition services at a long-term care facility; to provide for definitions; to provide for the employment of a licensed dietitian **Status:** Referred to Humans Relations

[HB 36](#), Guardians and Wards (Rep. Rob Leverett – R)

Relating to guardians and wards, so as to revise the list of providers who are authorized to participate in the process. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, [Referred to Judiciary Cmte](#)

[HB 238](#), Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (Rep. Eddie Lumsden – R)

So as to require the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council to create and maintain an at-risk adult training course focusing on officer response to individuals with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. **Status:** Referred to Public Safety and Homeland Security Cmte

Business – Tort Reform

[SB 68](#), Tort Reform (Sen. John Kennedy – R)

Relating to civil practice, contracts, motor vehicles, and torts, respectively, so as to provide for substantive and comprehensive revision of provisions regarding civil practice, evidentiary matters, damages, and liability in tort actions; to provide limitations relative to pain and suffering testimony; to provide for timing of answers and discovery; to provide for dismissals of civil actions; to provide for definitions. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, [Passed Senate, Sent to House](#)

[SB 69](#), Tort Reform (Sen. John Kennedy – R)

Relating to banking and finance, and depositions and discovery under the "Georgia Civil Practice Act," respectively, so as to regulate third-party litigation financing practices in this state. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte

Business

[HB 116](#), Public Safety; Motor Carrier Compliance Division Rename (Rep. Lauren McDonald III – R)
Relating to the Motor Carrier Compliance Division of the Department of Public Safety so as to change the name of the Motor Carrier Compliance Division of the Department of Public Safety to Commercial Vehicle Enforcement. **Status:** Referred to Motor Vehicles Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, **Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Transportation**

[HB 129](#), Ad Valorem Tax; Bona Fide conservation to use property (Rep. Chas Cannon – R)
Relating to preferential assessment for bona fide conservation use property and bona fide residential transitional property. **Status:** Referred Ways and Means Cmte, **First Hearing Held**

City & County Governments and Regional Commissions

[HB 92](#), Revenue and Taxation, Postpone Date (Rep. Shaw Blackmon – R)
Revenue and taxation; postpone date by which local governing authorities can opt out of base year homestead exemption. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Withdrawn and Recommitted, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, **Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Finance Cmte**

[HB 137](#), Contracts: Increase Dollar Value of Public Works (Rep. Victor Anderson – R)
Relating to contracts for public work, to increase the dollar value of certain public works contracts exempt from the provisions relating to retention of contractual payments. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Cmte

[SB 38](#), Development impact fees: Education (Greg Dolezal – R)
Provide for development impact fees for education. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte

[SB 51](#), State, County, and Municipal Road System (Sen. Ed Setzler – R)
Revise contracting procedures related to the acquisition of certain professional services by counties and municipalities **Status:** Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Cmte, **Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte**

[HB 152](#), Transportation, Department of; revise contracting procedures (Rep. Matt Reeves - R)
So as to revise contracting procedures related to the acquisition of certain professional services by counties and municipalities. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HB 216](#), CHIPS Advancement in Research and Economic Development Act (Rep. Vance Smith – R)
So as to create the Georgia CHIPS and Advanced Technology Commission; to amend Chapter 34 of Title 50, relating to the One Georgia Authority, so as to abolish the Georgia CHIPS and Advanced Technology Consortium. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte, House Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte

[HB 360](#), Revenue and taxation; revise tax credit (Rep. Chuck Efstrotation – R)
So as to revise a tax credit for the rehabilitation of historic structures; to authorize the credit to be claimed in the taxable year the year a certificate of occupancy is obtained for certain preapproved rehabilitations. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte

[HB 380](#), To repeal the act creating the LCRA. (Rep. Gerald Greene – R)

To repeal an Act creating the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Airport Authority, approved May 5, 2006 as amended. **Status:** Referred to Intragovernmental Coordination Cmte; [Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate](#)

[HB 381](#), To Amend the Lower Chattahoochee RTA (Rep. Gerald Greene – R)

To amend an Act to create the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Transportation Authority, so as to add Clay, Marion, and Webster counties to the authority; to revise provisions for the appointment of members; to add references to said additional counties. **Status:** Referred to Intragovernmental Coordination Cmte; [Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate](#)

[HB 387](#), Local government; Service delivery agreement (Rep. Brad Thomas – R)

So as to require service delivery agreement to include a growth boundary agreement component. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HB 495](#), Education; Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation (Rep. Robert Dickey – R)

Relating to agriculture, so as to transfer the Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation to the Department of Agriculture, relating to education, **Status:** Referred to Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Cmte, [Passed Cmte, Withdrawn from General Calendar; Recommitted to Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Cmte](#)

[HB 318](#), Appeal and error; Zoning decisions of counties and municipal corporations (Rep. Matt Reeves – R) Relating to zoning procedures as pertaining to counties and municipal corporations, so as to provide for the appeal of superior court decisions on zoning decisions of counties and municipal corporations **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte, [Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte](#)

[HB 513](#), Criteria for service delivery strategy; revise (Rep. John LaHood – R)

So as to revise provisions related to the county share of funding for jointly funded county-wide services borne by unincorporated residents **Status:** [Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte](#)

[HB 516](#), State government (Rep. Kimberly New – R)

So as to authorize county and regional library boards to conduct meetings via teleconference **Status:** [Referred to State Planning and Community Affairs Cmte](#)

[HB 521](#) Local government; deannexation of certain properties (Rep. Victor Anderson – R)

So as to revise procedures related to the deannexation of certain properties **Status:** [Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte](#)

Economic Development

[HB 51](#), GEFA Finance of Natural Gas Projects (Rep. James Burchett – R)

So as to authorize GEFA to finance and perform certain duties in connection with projects relating to natural gas. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources & Environment Cmte, House withdrawn and recommitted to Rural Development Cmte, [Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate; Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte](#)

[HB 159](#), Georgia Housing and Finance Authority (Rep. Clint Crowes – R)

So as to increase the outstanding bond limit. **Status:** Referred to Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight Cmte, [Withdrawn from Budget and Fiscal Affairs and Recommitted to Banks and Banking Cmte](#)

[HB 317](#), Workforce and Residential Infrastructure District for Georgia Act; enact (Rep. Ron Stephens)
Relating to local government, so as to provide for a short title; to provide for establishment of community development districts. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte, [Withdrawn from Governmental Affairs Cmte and Recommitted to Ways and Means Cmte](#)

[SB 13](#), GEFA Finance of Natural Gas Projects (Sen. Carden Summers – R)
So as to authorize GEFA to finance and perform certain duties in connection with projects relating to natural gas. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[SR 131](#), Sports Betting and Casino Gambling Activities (Sen. Carden Summers – R)
So as to authorize the Georgia General Assembly to provide by law for the operation and regulation of sports betting and casino gambling activities in this state. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte

[HB 455](#), Bingo; properties used for games (Rep. Alan Powell – R)
So as to provide for the information to be provided on applications for bingo games; to revise the provisions regarding the properties used for bingo games; to revise the limits on the number of bingo game sessions which are allowed per month **Status:** [Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte](#)

[SB 208](#), State Government; regulation and taxation of sports betting in this state (Rep. Billy Hickman – R)
Relating to gambling, so as to exclude any consideration paid to a sports betting licensee from the definition of "bet" **Status:** [Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte](#)

Elections

Environmental & Natural Resources

[HB 287](#), Environmental Protection Division; Environmental Advisory Council (Rep. Trey Rhodes – R)
Relating to Environmental Protection Division, Environmental Advisory Council, duties of council and its members and director, appeal procedures generally, permit applications, and inspections, so as to update the reference date to standards, rules, and regulations. **Status:** Referred to Game, Fish, and Parks Cmte, [Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte](#)

[HB 561](#), Okefenokee Protection Act; enact (Rep. Darlene Taylor – R)
So as to prohibit the director of the Environmental Protection Division of the Natural Resources Department from issuing, modifying, or renewing any permit or accepting any bond to conduct surface mining operations on Trail Ridge for future permit applications and amendments. **Status:** [Hopper; Referred to Natural Resources and Environment Cmte](#)

[HB 562](#), Natural Resources, Department of (Rep. Darlene Taylor – R)
So as to provide for a five-year moratorium on the acceptance of applications for new permits and the acceptance of requests to modify existing permits by the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources to expand the area of land affected by surface mining operations on Trail Ridge. **Status:** [Hopper; Referred to Natural Resources and Environment Cmte](#)

Government – General

[SB 37](#), Georgia Board for Artificial Intelligence: “AI Accountability Act”: enact (Sen. John Albers – R)
So as to require that all governmental entities develop and maintain artificial intelligence system usage plans **Status:** Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte

[SB 46](#), “Government Serves the People Act”: enact (Sen. Marty Harbin – R)

To improve government service delivery in this state; to provide for the appointment of a State of Georgia Government Service Delivery Lead within the Georgia Technology Authority to coordinate such efforts.

Status: Referred to Government Oversight Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[HB 175](#), Education; Early care and education programs and Head Start program (Rep. Todd Jones – R)

So as to revise provisions regarding employee comprehensive background checks for early care and education programs and Head Start programs. **Status:** Referred to Education Cmte

[SB 189](#), Department of Community Affairs (Rep. Rick Williams – R)

So as to provide for the department to develop and maintain a publicly accessible data base of legal notices that are otherwise required by law to be published in a newspaper **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte

Health – General

[HB 102](#), Community Health; Georgia Quality Reporting Project (Rep. Sharon Cooper – R)

Provide for the establishment of the Georgia Quality Reporting Project **Status:** Referred to Public and Community Health Cmte

[HB 118](#), Education; Relating to early care and learning (Rep. Rick Townsend – R)

So as to revise the requirements of childcare learning center and family childcare learning homes; require that such centers and homes maintain at least one portable airway clearance device **Status:** Referred to Education Cmte

[HB 178](#), Social Services; treatment services under Medicaid; Provisions (Rep. Sharon Cooper - R)

So as to require the Department of Community Health to submit a Section 1115 waiver request to the federal centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for a demonstration project to provide treatment services under Medicaid to persons in this state living with HIV. **Status:** Referred to Public and Community Health Cmte

[HB 185](#), Professions and businesses; the Dietetics Practice Act (Rep. Ginny Ehrhart – R)

So as to repeal and reenact Chapter 11A, the Dietetics Practice Act, relating to torts. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[HB 251](#), To provide for certified registered nurse anesthetist to order anesthesia (Lauren McDonald – R)

Relating to nurses, so as provide for a certified registered nurse anesthetist to order and administer anesthesia and an anesthesia plan under certain conditions; to provide for definitions; to provide for liability; to provide for a healthcare facility to adopt policies relating to the provision of anesthesia. **Status:** Referred to Regulated industries Cmte

[HB 291](#), Certification of community health workers (Rep. Darlene Taylor – R)

So as to provide for the certification of community health workers; To provide for the establishment of the Georgia Community Health Worker Certification Committee **Status:** Referred to Public and Community Health Cmte

[HB 373](#), Insurance; annual prostate cancer screenings for certain men (Rep. Lydia Glaize – D)

So as to require coverage for annual prostate cancer screenings for certain men; so as to require coverage for annual prostate cancer screenings for certain men. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte

[SB 169](#), Certain education and training requirements for the performance of dry needling (Sen. Shawn Still – R) To require licensed physical therapists who perform dry needling to complete certain education and

training requirements; so as to provide for certain education and training requirements for the performance of dry needling **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

[HB 420](#), Require certain health benefit policies to cover genetic testing (Rep. Darlene Taylor – R)
So as to require certain health benefit policies to cover genetic testing for an inherited mutation and cancer imaging under certain conditions **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte

[HB 520](#), Georgia Licensed Midwife Act; enact (Rep. Karen Mathiak – R)
So as to repeal in its entirety Chapter 26, relating to the practice of midwifery; to revise provisions relating to peer review to include midwives **Status:** Referred to Public and Community Health Cmte

Hospitals -- CON (Certificate of Need)

[SB 95](#), Exemption from CON requirements concerning life plan communities (Sen. Ben Watson – R)
Relating to exemptions from the certificate of need program, so as to revise an exemption from certificate of need requirements concerning life plan communities. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

Hospitals

[HB 170](#), Insurance; benefit provider to disclose certain payments (Rep. Karen Mathiak – R)
Relating to authorization and general requirements for transaction of insurance, so as to provide for a benefit provider to disclose certain payments to treating healthcare providers. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte

[HB 262](#), Grant program for purpose of acquiring and installing backup generators (Rep. Angie O'Steen)
So as to provide for a grant program for the purpose of acquiring and installing backup generators; to provide that the department shall consult with the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency in establishing grant criteria. **Status:** Referred to Rural Development Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, House Postponed; House Withdrawn from Rules Calendar and Recommitted to Rural Development Cmte

[HB 298](#), Requirements for nurse staffing in hospitals (Rep. Trey Kelley – R)
So as to provide requirements for nurse staffing in hospitals; to require a written nurse services staffing plan; to provide for the establishment of nurse staffing committees. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte

[SB 80](#), Tax Credits; the definition of “rural hospital organization” (Sen. Carden Summers – R)
Relating to eligibility to receive tax credits, so as to revise the definition of "rural hospital organization. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

[SB 101](#), Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; testing in the newborn screening (Sen. Randy Robertson – R)
So as to require testing for Duchenne muscular dystrophy in the newborn screening system **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[SB 130](#), Medical education funding and the service cancelable loan program (Sen. Mike Hodges – R)
To provide for medical education funding to certain medical organizations facilities; to provide for a physician in certain residency or fellowship programs to be eligible for the service cancelable loan program. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[SB 131](#), Georgia Health Care Professionals Data System; establishment (Sen. Mike Hodges – R)

Relating to Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce, so as to provide for the establishment of the Georgia Health Care Professionals Data System. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte, **Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte**

[SB 162](#), Georgia Composite Medical Board; Provide (Rep. Chuck Hufstetler – R)

So as to provide for the board to implement an automated credentialing system for healthcare providers in this state. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte

Insurance

Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities

[SB 132](#), Insanity and Mental Incapacity; (Sen. Brian Strickland – R)

So as to require a hearing before a court orders an evaluation of the mental competency of an accused person to stand trial. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte

Military Base Support

Pharmaceuticals

[HB 139](#), Pharmacies: Prohibit drug manufacturers and wholesaler (Rep. Todd Jones – R)

To prohibit drug manufacturers and wholesalers from preventing a licensed pharmacies from acquiring and dispensing drugs purchased from entities that participate in particular federal drug discount program. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte

[HB 473](#), Schedule I; provide certain provisions (Rep. Ron Stephen – R)

So as to provide for certain provisions relating to Schedule I controlled substances **Status:** **Referred to Health Cmte**

[SB 5](#), Certification of private review agents (Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick – R)

Relating to certification of private review agents, so as to provide for health insurers to implement and maintain a program. **Status:** Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Insurance Cmte

[SB 60](#), Pharmacy Benefits Manager (Sen. Chuck Hufstetler)

So as to provide that such managers have a duty of care to insureds, health plans, and providers. **Status:** Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte

Public Health

[HB 43](#), Disadvantaged Community Drinking Water Program (Rep. Viola Davis – D)

To establish the Disadvantaged Community Drinking Water Program, to provide for requirements. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources and Environment Cmte

[HB 46](#), Maternal Mortality Review Cmte (Rep. Viola Davis – D)

To provide for the composition of the Maternal Mortality Review Committee. **Status:** Referred to Public and Community Health Cmte

[HB 83](#), Cigarette tax increase (Rep. Michelle Au – D)

Increase tax rate on a pack of cigarettes. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte

[HB 84](#), Increase tax rate on consumable vapor products (Rep. Michelle Au – D)

Relating to taxes on tobacco and vaping products, so as to increase the rate of the tax on consumable vapor products; to provide that the proceeds derived from such increase are intended to be appropriated for healthcare purposes. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte

[HB 89](#), Maternal Mortality Review Cmte (Rep. Sharon Cooper – R)

Public Health, Department of; require healthcare providers, facilities, and pharmacies to provide the Maternal Mortality Review Committee with psychiatric or other clinical records. **Status:** Referred to Public & Community Health Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, **Withdrawn from General Calendar and Recommitted to Public and Community Health Cmte**

[HB 96](#), Revenue and taxation; Pack of cigarettes (Rep. Sam Park – D)

Relating to taxes on tobacco and vaping products, so as to increase the rate of the tax on each pack of cigarettes to the national average tax on cigarettes. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 124](#), Insurance for pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders (Rep. Mitchell Scoggins – R)

Relating to requiring coverage for healthcare services for pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders such as streptococcal infection (PANDAS). **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[HB 173](#), Education; Department of; Adolescent Vaccinations Information (Rep. Darlene Taylor – R)

So as to require the Department of Education to provide to parents and guardians of students entering the sixth grade information regarding recommended adolescent vaccinations in print or electronic form. **Status:** Referred to Education Cmte, withdrawn and recommitted to Public and Community Health Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte

[HB 322](#), Ga. Board of Dentistry (Rep. Lee Hawkins – R)

So as to revise provisions regarding the Georgia Board of Dentistry issuance of a dental or dental hygiene license for the sole purpose of teaching or instructing in an accredited dental school, dental hygiene school, or academic medical center in this state. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte, **Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte**

[HB 352](#), Georgia Gestational Diabetes Management Act; enact (Rep. Devan Seabaugh – R)

So as to revise coverage criteria to include Medicaid recipients with gestational diabetes. **Status:** Referred to Public Community and Health Cmte, **Passed by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte**

[HB 117](#), Food service establishments (Rep. Jesse Petrea – R)

So as to require notification of the country of origin of seafood items **Status:** Referred to Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, **Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Interstate Cooperation**

[HB 440](#), Providing Effective Access to Cannabis for Health (PEACH) Act (Rep. David Clark – R)

So as to rename low THC oil as medical cannabis; Relating to offenses against the public health and morals, regulation of controlled substances, and general provisions relative to the Department of Public Health. **Status:** **Referred to Health Cmte**

[HB 471](#), Health; Water safety education video (Rep. Mike Cheokas – R)

So as to require that licensed general hospitals and birthing centers make available a water safety education video to parents or guardians of newborn infants. **Status:** **Referred to Public and Community Health Cmte**

[HB 489](#), End Public Funding of Misinformation Act (Rep. Anne Allen Westbrook – D)
so as to repeal and reserve Article 2, relating to positive alternatives for pregnancy and parenting grant program. **Status:** Referred to Public and Community Health Cmte

[HB 492](#), Revenue and taxation (Rep. Clint Crowe – R)
So as to repeal an exemption for charges paid for continuous use of rooms, lodgings, or accommodations after the first 30 days of continuous occupancy. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte

[HB 500](#), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Act (Rep. Tyler Paul Smith – R)
So as to increase access to and amount of benefits; to revise a definition; to increase the lifetime maximum for benefits; to revise the income and resources of an applicant that may be considered to determine eligibility. **Status:** Referred to Public and Community Health Cmte

[HB 506](#), Medicaid coverage for tobacco cessation treatments (Rep. Scott Hilton – R)
So as to provide Medicaid coverage for tobacco cessation treatments **Status:** Referred to Public and Community Health Cmte

[SB 205](#), Insurance; pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders (Rep. Sam Watson – R)
So as to require coverage for healthcare services for pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infection (PANDAS) and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS) in accordance with nationally recognized clinical practice guideline. **Status:** Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte

[SB 220](#), "Putting Georgia's Patients First Act" (Rep. Matt Brass – R)
So as to rename low THC oil as medical cannabis, relating to offenses against the public health and morals. **Status:** Referred Health and Human Services Cmte

Study Committees

Taxes

[HB 111](#), Personal state income tax rate reduction (Rep. Soo Hong – R)
Relating to the imposition, rate, computation, exemptions, and credits relative to income taxes, so as to reduce the rate of the personal state income tax (reduce from 5.39% to 5.19%); to provide for related matters. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[HB 112](#), Income tax; One-time Tax Rebate (Rep. Lauren McDonald III – R)
So as to provide for a one-time tax credit for individual taxpayers who filed income tax returns for the 2023 and 2024 taxable years. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[HB 282](#), Ad valorem tax; property; change certain definitions - (Rep. Vance Smith – R)
Relating to ad valorem taxation of property, so as to change certain definitions regarding such taxation. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte

[HB 365](#), Strategic Industrial Development Enhancement (SIDE) Tax Credit Act; (Rep. Rick Jasperse – R)
So as to create a temporary income tax credit for certain expenditures relating to projects promoting industrial infrastructure enhancement and connectivity to provide for definitions; to provide for eligibility approval by the Department of Community Affairs; to provide for limitations upon such tax credit; to authorize the sale or transfer of unused credits; to provide for an aggregate annual limit; to provide for terms and conditions. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte

[HB 361](#), Income tax (Rep. Bethany Ballard – R)

So as to exempt from taxation all income received as retirement benefits derived from service in the armed forces of the United States or the reserve components thereof. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte,

[HB 474](#), Revenue and taxation (Rep. Ron Stephens)

Relating to county and municipal levies on public accommodations charges for promotion of tourism, conventions, and trade shows, so as to repeal an exemption for charges paid for continuous use of rooms, lodgings, or accommodations after the first 30 days of continuous occupancy **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte

[HB 479](#), Income tax; allow for tax credits (Rep. John Carson – R)

So as to allow for tax credits in excess of the amount that can be claimed in a given year to be carried forward to subsequent years. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte

[HB 526](#), Ad valorem tax (Rep. Mark Newton – R)

Relating to general provisions relative to ad valorem taxation of property, so as to provide for an extension of preferential assessment periods for certain historic properties. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte

Transportation

[HB 76](#), Require public hearings for local projects of significant impact (Rep. Stacey Evans – D)

To require public hearings for local transportation projects of significant impact. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte

[HB 164](#), Highways, bridges, and ferries; allowable variance for weight limitations upon a vehicle or load - (Rep. Steven Meeks – R) Relating to dimensions and weight of vehicles and loads, so as to repeal automatic repeal provisions relating to an allowable variance for weight limitations upon a vehicle or load hauling certain commodities within a certain range and areas of the state; to provide for the enforcement of such provisions by local law enforcement officers; to provide for related matters. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte

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